

- 27 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for encrypting a message, comprising:  
identifying a message to be encrypted, the message  
having a plurality of characters;  
5 providing an encryption key array having a plurality  
of records, each record of the encryption key  
array having a plurality of elements;  
associating characters of the message with the  
encryption key array; and  
10 generating an encrypted message by storing a value  
representing the association of the encryption  
key array with characters of the message.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein providing the  
15 encryption key includes generating the encryption key such  
that each element of one of the plurality of records contains  
a value that is unique to the value contained in each other  
element in the same record of the encryption key array.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein associating the  
20 characters of the message with the encryption key array  
includes associating the character of the message with one of  
the plurality of records within the encryption key array and  
further associating the character of the message with one of  
25 the plurality of elements of the associated record of the  
encryption key array and obtaining the value contained within  
the associated element.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein associating the  
30 character of the message with one of

- 28 -

the plurality of records within the encryption key array  
comprises:

associating the position of the character within the  
message relative to other characters of the  
message with the position of one of the  
plurality of records within the encryption key  
array relative to other records of the  
encryption key array; and

associating the character of the message with the  
position of one of the plurality of elements  
within the associated record of the encryption  
key array.

- 29 -

5. An method for encrypting and decrypting a message,  
comprising:

identifying a message to be encrypted, the message  
having a plurality of characters;

5 generating an encryption key array having a  
plurality of records, each record of the  
encryption key array having a plurality of  
elements such that each element of one of the  
plurality of records contains a value that is  
10 unique to the value contained in each other  
element in the same record of the encryption  
key array;

associating characters of the message with the  
encryption key;

15 generating an encrypted message by storing encrypted  
characters representing the association of the  
encryption key array with characters of the  
message;

20 associating the encrypted characters of the  
encrypted message with the encryption key  
array; and

25 generating an decrypted message by storing a value  
representing the association of the encryption  
key array with encrypted characters of the  
encrypted message.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein associating the  
characters of the message with the encryption key array  
comprises:

30 associating the position of the characters within  
the message relative to other characters of the

- 30 -

message with the position of one of the  
plurality of records within the encryption key  
array relative to other records of the  
encryption key array;

5 associating the characters of the message with the  
position of one of the plurality of elements  
within the associated record of the encryption  
key array; and  
determining the value contained within the  
10 associated element.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein associating the  
encrypted characters of the encrypted message with the  
encryption key array comprises;

15 associating the position of the encrypted character  
within the encrypted message relative to the  
other encrypted characters of the encrypted  
message with the position of one of the  
plurality of records within the encryption key  
array relative to the other records of the  
20 encryption key array; and

associating the encrypted characters of the  
encrypted message with the position of one of  
the unique values contained in one of the  
25 plurality of elements within the associated  
record of the encrypted key array.

- 31 -

8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

identifying a message to be encrypted, the message having a plurality of characters;

providing an encryption key array having a plurality of records, each record of the encryption key array having a plurality of elements;

associating characters of the message with the encryption key array; and

generating an encrypted message by storing a value representing the association of the encryption key array with characters of the message.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein providing the encryption key array includes generating the encryption key array such that each element of one of the plurality of records contains a value that is unique to the value contained in each other element in the same record of the encryption key array.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein associating the characters of the message with the encryption key array comprises:

associating the position of the characters within the message relative to other characters of the message with the position of one of the plurality of records within the encryption key array relative to other records of the encryption key array;

associating the characters of the message with the position of one of the plurality of elements

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PATENT APPLICATION

- 32 -

within the associated record of the encryption  
key array; and  
determining the value contained within the  
associated element.

- 33 -

11. A system for encrypting a message, comprising:  
a storage device;  
a processor programmed to:  
identify a message to be encrypted, the message  
having a plurality of characters;  
provide an encryption key array having a plurality  
of records, each record of the encryption key  
array having a plurality of elements;  
associate characters of the message with the  
encryption key array; and  
generate an encrypted message by storing a value  
representing the association of the encryption  
key array with characters of the message.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein providing the  
encryption key array includes generating the encryption key  
array such that each element of one of the plurality of  
records contains a value that is unique to the value contained  
in each other element in the same record of the encryption key  
array.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein associating the  
characters of the message with the encryption key array  
comprises:

associating the position of the characters within  
the message relative to other characters of the  
message with the position of one of the  
plurality of records within the encryption key  
array relative to other records of the  
encryption key array;

- 34 -

associating the characters of the message with the  
position of one of the plurality of elements  
within the associated record of the encryption  
key array; and

5 determining the value contained within the  
associated element.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the processor is  
firmware.

10 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the processor is  
hardware.



- 35 -

16. A method for concealing information within a data file, comprising:

providing a first data file having a plurality of records, each record of the first data file having a plurality of elements;

providing information having a plurality of elements; and

generating a second data file by combining elements of the information with elements of the first data file such that the first and second data files are substantially similar.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein generating the second data includes associating at least one element of the information with one of the plurality of records within the first data file and further associating the element of the information with one of the plurality of elements of the associated record of the first data file.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the first data is a data file selected from a group of data files consisting of an audio file, a video file, an audio-visual file, and a graphics file, and wherein the second data file is a data file selected from a group of data files consisting of an audio file, a video file, an audio-visual file, and a graphics file.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the information concealed within the data file is an encryption key array.

- 36 -

20. The method of claim 17 wherein generating the second data file further includes obtaining a value relative to the association of the information with the first data file and storing the value in the second data file.

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21. The method of claim 20 wherein the first data is a data file selected from a group of data files consisting of an audio file, a video file, an audio-visual file, and a graphics file, and wherein the second data file is a data file selected from a group of data files consisting of an audio file, a video file, an audio-visual file, and a graphics file.

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22. The method of claim 21 wherein the information concealed within the data file is an encryption key array.

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